

Austin Health Specialist Clinic holds multidisciplinary sessions to discuss and plan the treatment of patients with Gastroenterology conditions.

Department of Health clinical urgency categories for specialist clinics

Urgent: A referral is urgent if the patient has a condition that has major functional impairment and/or moderate risk of permanent damage to an organ/bone/tissue/system if not seen within 30 days. For emergency cases, please send the patient to the Emergency department.

Semi Urgent: Referrals should be categories as Semi Urgent that has the potential to deteriorate within 30-90 days.

Routine: The Gastroenterology Consultant will triage Referrals. Appointments will be booked accordingly.

Exclusions: The following conditions should not be referred to outpatients, but rather patients should be advised to present directly to Emergency Dept:

*'Active haematemesis and/or melaena; Acute severe colitis; Jaundice with fever / abdominal pain, Food bolus obstruction, Suspected bowel obstruction
Decompensated cirrhosis with encephalopathy, jaundice or sepsis; Clinically significant ascites/hepatic hydrothorax'.*

Condition / Symptom	GP Management	Investigations Required Prior to Referral	Expected Triage Outcome information	Expected number of Specialist Appointments
Hepatitis C Diagnosis	<p>All patients with chronic Hep C (positive PCR or viral load) should be considered for treatment with DAAs.</p> <p>When to refer: We are happy to manage all patients with chronic Hepatitis C.</p> <p>Specifically, if suspected cirrhosis, if multiple comorbidities, or renal impairment.</p> <p>If treatment cannot be prescribed by GP</p>	<p>Clinical history and examination</p> <p>Hep C Genotype Hep C Viral load UEC, LFT inc AST, FBE, Hep B sAg, Hep B cAb</p>	<p>Hepatitis C referrals will be fast tracked to an appropriate Austin or Outreach Clinic.</p> <p>Your patient should receive an appointment within 30 days.</p>	<p><i>As required</i></p>